

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Lookup scheme in which a tuple representing a plurality of flow properties is parsed into multiple subtuples for application in recursive lookups. A first subtuple including 5 a first subset of bits from the tuple is applied to the flow information database and returns a result including a nickname having a smaller bit count than the first subtuple. A second subtuple including a second subset of bits from the tuple and the nickname are combined and applied to the flow 10 information database. The lookups continue until a result indicates that no recursion is required. The final lookup result includes flow information applicable to one or more of modifying, enqueueing or forwarding the packet. A truncated lookup capability enables common processing across 15 a group of distinct flows having common flow properties.

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